



SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the section heading on page 5, line 1, with the following:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the section headings on page 6, line 19, with the following:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-3.

Please replace current claim 4 with the following:

4. (Amended) The hand rail assembly as defined in claim 17, further comprising:

a third vertical post, the rails being removably engaged with the third vertical post;

and

removable and replaceable polymerized sheathing surrounding the third vertical post, the sheathing having an interior diameter equal to or greater than the outer diameter of the vertical post and extending the height of the post.

Please replace current claim 5 with the following:

5. (Amended) The hand rail assembly as defined in claim 17, wherein the infill panel has an area which substantially consumes the framed area; the panel being mounted in the framed area.

Please replace current claim 6 with the following:

6. (Amended) The hand rail assembly as defined in claim 5, further comprising

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